

Fort Riley,  
Building # 373  
373 Stone Court  
Fort Riley  
Riley County  
Kansas

HABS No. KS-54-Q

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. KS-54-Q

FORT RILEY, BUILDING # 373

Location: 373 Stone Court, Fort Riley, Riley County, Kansas.

USGS, Junction City Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 14.692605.4326300

Present Owner: United States Department of the Army

Present Occupant: Lieutenant Robinson occupies Building # 373-A, and Warrant Officer Sullivan occupies # 373-B.

Present Use: Double family officers quarters

Significance: Building # 373 is one of ten rock-faced limestone duplexes built on Stone Court in 1939. It was one of the last rock-faced quarters built on post. The ten structures appear in two variations. Those like Building # 373 have hipped roofs and entrances with entablatures above (See HABS photo # KS-54-Q-1). The others, like Building # 375 have gable roofs with half-round arches over the entrances. These buildings are identical to their brick counterparts built eight years earlier in 1931 on Lower Brick Row (See HABS photo # KS-54-P-1) and in 1939 on Riley Place. This standardization of plans reflects the army's wish to economize and also the need to construct many residences as rapidly as possible during the expansion years of the 1930's. The Army Corps of Engineers built courts specifically to save money on roads and utility services. The structures' simple, plain ornamentation was also reflective of their useage by warrant officers (a lower ranking officer). Though the Corps erected several courts during the 1930's at Fort Riley, Stone Court is unique. While Lower Brick Row was built around a central court, with the road surrounding both the houses and the court, Stone Court is basically a court turned inside out. The two parallel lines of residences are placed back-to-back with the road running down the center. Their facades face onto grassy fields while their rear elevations look out over the street. This plan allows for easy automobile access while granting the facade of the house a pleasing vista.

Building # 373 and all of the Stone Court residences were built during the construction boom of the 1930's. This boom began in 1927 when the Corps began to replace temporary World War I structures with permanent buildings. The army launched a \$148 million project which was to cover a ten-year period. The Depression accelerated the pace and

volume of construction as Washington politicians began to expand all public works efforts in 1929 to relieve unemployment (Quartermaster Support of the Army, 713-714).

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The Engineer's Historical Record Book and the Real Property Cards, both located in the Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH), Fort Riley, give June 30, 1930 as the erection date.
2. Architect: Unknown. However, the constructing quartermaster at Fort Riley in 1939 was Capt. F.F. Taylor, Jr. Washington army officials usually sent a constructing quartermaster to a fort in order to supervise a largescale building project. The construction quartermaster worked independently of local commanders and was the ultimate authority regarding the erection of new buildings. This practice dated back to the nineteenth century.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Building # 373 was owned by the Department of the War, since 1947 referred to as the Department of the Army.
4. Builder and contractor: The Department of the Army built the quarters under the supervision of Capt. F.F. Taylor, Jr., Constructing Quartermaster, who opened bids for "14 double sets of non-commissioned officers quarters at Fort Riley" on August 25, 1938. Eight bids were received, the lowest from Mont J. Green of Manhattan, Kansas, for \$225,000.00 (Junction City Union (weekly), August 25, 1938, 1:7).
5. Original plans and construction: The DEH office has standardized blueprints dated September 20, 1930, that were first drawn for Buildings # 230-# 236 on Lower Brick Row. These same plans appear to have been used to construct the residences on Stone Court and Riley Place. These plans include front, side and rear elevations, complete floor plans, front and rear porch details, cornice, door and window details, along with structural close-ups, and cabinet details (see Supplemental Materials # 1 & # 2). Original cost is given in the Real Property Cards and in the Engineer's Historical Record Book as \$15,423.39.
6. Alterations and additions: Building # 373 has had few alterations to the original structure. The bathroom was remodeled, and the coal chutes and slate roof were removed at some unknown date. Also, a rock-faced limestone two-car garage was added, probably as a Works Project Administration activity (Junction City Union, Aug. 16, 1938).

B. Historical Context:

The 1930's were boom years for military construction all across the country. The army launched a \$148 million program to replace temporary World War I structures with permanent ones. Also, the Depression spurred the expansion of all public works projects to relieve the unemployment rolls (Quartermaster Support of the Army, pp. 713-714). Fort Riley was a particularly busy base as 1939 saw its expansion when 51,000 acres were added to the reservation in anticipation of World War II (Martial Metropolises, p. 39).

Part II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building # 373 is a two-story, rock-faced random ashlar limestone duplex built in 1939 to house warrant officers. Similar buildings were built of brick in Lower Brick Row in 1931 and at Riley Place in 1939. These buildings all have simplified Georgian features. They have gable roofs with square main blocks and symmetrical facades, six over six sash windows with wide first-story facade windows, and small front stoops with pilasters beside the front doors. These buildings are not uniform. They come in two variations. One form, like Building # 373 have hipped roofs with an entablature above the front entrance. The other variation (like Building # 234) has a gable roof with a rounded fantail arch above the front entrance. Both forms were built in brick and in limestone.
2. Condition of the fabric: Building # 373 is in excellent condition both internally and externally.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main block of Building # 373 (28' x 40') is six bays wide (four bays on the second floor) by two bays deep. Each side wing (9'2" x 15'2") is three bays wide by four bays deep.
2. Foundation: Building # 373 has a rock-faced ashlar limestone foundation. Foundation walls are sixteen inches thick. Under each pier there are 2'6" x 2'6" x 1'3" footings.
3. Walls: Building # 373 has rock-faced random ashlar limestone walls with no decorative features.
4. Structural system and framing: Building # 373 has sixteen inch, load-bearing limestone walls that support the flooring structure

and the partition walls. In the basement there are two additional floor beams. To the south is a ten inch I-beam supported by two brick pillars. To the north is a large square concrete support beam about one and half feet thick. The floor beams are 2" x 10" and the rafters are 2" x 8" with 2" x 8" collar beams and brackets at every other rafter.

5. Porches and stoops: Building # 373 has one central rectangular stoop shared by both entrances. It has a rock-faced, random ashlar limestone foundation with a concrete floor and side entrances. Across the front, along the steps and between the two doorways there is a black wrought-iron railing (See HABS photo # KS-54-Q-1). The rear porch also is centrally located over the middle two bays with the same foundation, floor, steps, and railing. It has a wood frame with three squared columns that have a cyma reversa molding above a plain, flat, board and rest on a block base. The entire porch is screened. The entablature of the porch has a cyma reversa molding at the top, several bands of squared molding followed by a plain frieze and an architrave below. The top third of the partition wall is of lattice frame and the bottom two-thirds is of wide horizontal boards with half inch grooves between each board (See HABS photo # KS-54-Q-3).
6. Chimneys: Building # 373 has two gable end interior chimneys made of rock-faced, random ashlar limestone, with a concrete cap. Each is seven feet and five inches tall.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The front entries share a molded cornice which has a cyma reversa top followed by a plain frieze. Below this, each doorway has a wooden architrave that rests on two squared pilasters to the side. The entablature has a cyma reversed molding at the top, followed by squared grooves, and a plain frieze below. Above the door there is a decorative transom that has a six-light sunburst pattern.
  - b. Windows: The typical window is a six over six sash with a rock-faced limestone lintel and sill. The two outer first story facade windows have narrow two over two sash side lights, with flat segmental keystone arches and a three stone rock-faced limestone lintel (See HABS photo # KS-54-Q-1). Basement windows, located under the outer bays, are three-light casement and have rock-faced limestone lintels. The front elevation of the side wing has one, six over six sash window with no lintel but, with a three stone rock-faced limestone sill. The side elevation of the wing has three, six

over six sash windows with a rock-faced limestone sill. The rear elevation has the same windows as the facade, except the second story windows are slightly smaller. The central bays inside the porch have a large square wood panel below and share the same wood surrounds with the rear entries.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: Building # 373 has a hipped roof, with composition shingles. The structure originally had a slate roof according to the Engineer's Historical Record Book, DEH. The rear porch has a raised-seam metal, low-pitched, shed roof.
- b. Cornice and eaves: The front and rear elevations have a wooden return-box cornice with a cyma reversa molding at the top and an inverted ovolo molding at the bottom. The cornice on the side wings has a cyma reversa molding above followed by a square edge, another cyma reversa molding, a plain fascia, and an architrave. The eaves overhang the main block about one foot all around the house. There are metal gutters and downspots.

C. Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Building # 373 enters into the living room (14'2" x 19'9"). To the west is the main stairway. Across the living room and through double French doors is the sun porch (9'7" x 15'8"). North through a doorway (about six feet wide) is the dining room (11'0" x 13'8"), which opens into the kitchen to the west (8'3" x 13'8"). The main stairway leads to the second floor hall and east is the full bathroom (7'1" x 7'5"). To the west is the small bedroom (8'3" x 9'1") while there are two central bedrooms across the hall. The basement is reached via the back stairway that begins in the kitchen. The basement has two connecting rooms, a large laundry area (19'11" x 28'7") and a smaller space to the west (6'0" x 8'8"). The plan of Building # 373-B is the reverse.
2. Stairways: In Building # 373 there are two stairways. The central open stairway has a two curved flight. The first thread has rounded corners and the next two curve to the right in a fan-like pattern. The pine steps are unpainted as is the plain squared newel post which has a rectangular etched line design, and a rounded, squat newel cap. The stairway has a rounded handrail supported by a plain squared balustrade (see HABS Photo # KS-54-Q-5). The same newel post, balustrade, and handrail also appear on the second floor landing. The painted back stairway has a simple plain squared handrail, with frame steps and no balusters.

3. Flooring: The floors throughout Building # 373 are varnished oak boards about three inches wide and are probably original. The kitchen has a linoleum floor while the floor in the bathroom is tile. The basement has a concrete floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings throughout Building # 373 are plastered and painted white. The kitchen walls are tile covered, while in the basement, the outside walls are smooth-faced (chiseled) random ashlar limestone, and the partition wall next to the back stair is brick.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance has a six-panel door. The bottom four panels are square, the top two are horizontal lights. All the doors in the house follow this pattern except are narrower and have wooden top panels (see HABS photo # KS-54-Q-5). The rear door has nine lights over one large square panel. The double French doors connecting the living room and the sun porch have ten lights and the doorway is about one and half feet thick. There is a three-vertical panel door in the kitchen and in the bathroom, and a nine-light, two-vertical panel door at the basement exit (See HABS photo # KS-54-Q-4). All doors have plain, flat four inch doorheads and door jambs, with two parallel grooves towards their outer edge.
  - b. Windows: The windows in Building # 373 have very plain, flat board surrounds with plain flat wide sills that have a two inch wide rectangular aprons with beveled edges.
6. Decorative features and trim: The baseboards in Building # 373 are about four inches wide and have a rounded top edge with a small groove and a cyma reversa molding at the bottom near the floor (See HABS photo # KS-54-Q-5). These baseboards appear in all rooms including the bathroom and kitchen. Below the ceiling is picture molding in the dining and living rooms only. In the kitchen are the original built in wood cabinets and sink. The cabinets have paneled side walls, shelves around the sink with a small overhead light, and a mesh door below the sink, and ovolo molding near the ceiling. In the bathroom there is a built-in, six-horizontal paneled closet. There is a linen closet opposite the second floor stairs with three-vertical panels. The small west bedroom has a small wood closet that extends about one foot into the room. There are no fireplaces in this building.
7. Hardware: Building # 373 has plain brass oval door knobs and oval doorplates on all doors except the main entrance which has a square brass plate and a plain round brass doorknob. The French

doors have plain oval brass plates with a small stem handle and plain brass door locks (at the top and bottom of the door.) In the kitchen, there are stainless steel oval doorknobs and doorplates. The kitchen cabinets have unique push button door latches. These stainless steel locks are about one and half inches in diameter and have a black center push-button.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: Building # 373 is steam heated by a National U.S. Radiator, #101-8, located in the basement. It pumps steam into room radiators distributed throughout the house.
- b. Plumbing: In the bathroom there is an original square porcelain sink, supported by two square stainless steel legs.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Building # 373 is located on Stone Court which lies to the northwest of the main post (see Supplemental Material # 3). The court is terraced and slopes north-to-south with Building # 373 located at the southwest edge. The surrounding landscape is grassy with tall shade trees evenly dispersed around the house. The front of Building # 373 looks out over a grassy field; the rear faces the street called Stone Court. On either side of the house are similar two-story limestone residences. Each residence rests on a small mounded grassy site that rises about five feet above the level of the sidewalk.
2. Outbuildings: On the northeast side of Building # 373 there is a two-car garage made of rock-faced random ashlar limestone with a flat concrete roof and no front doors.

PART III: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Original Architectural Drawings: Copies of the original floor plans drawn in 1930 for buildings on Lower Brick Row but standardized for construction of Stone Court are located in the DEH office, Fort Riley. These blueprints include floor plans, elevations, and details of doors, cabinets, cornices, porches, stoops, and stairways. DEH also has plans detailing the replacement of the boiler in 1964 and roof repairs made in 1967.
- B. Early Views:
  1. One photograph, ca. 1939 located in the Engineer's Historical Record Book, DEH, Fort Riley.



C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- a. Junction City Union; bound copies available in the Geary County Historical Museum, and microfilm copies available at the Junction City Public Library.
- b. Engineer's Historical Record Book, DEH, Fort Riley.

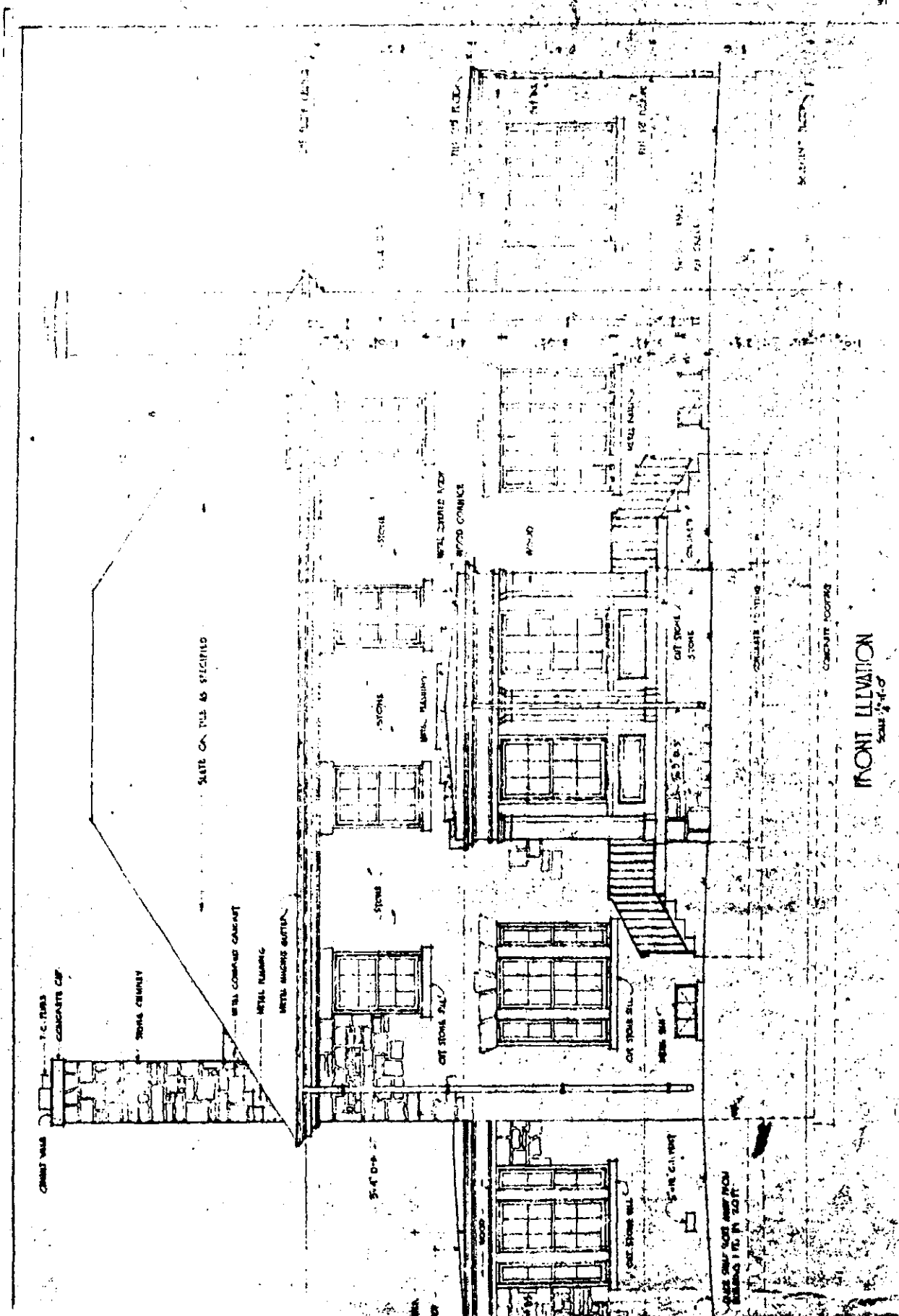
2. Secondary and published sources:

- a. Fontenot, Gregory, "Junction City--Fort Riley: A Case of Symbiosis," in Roger W. Lotchin. The Martial Metropolis. New York, 1984, pp. 36-60.
- b. Harris, Cyril M., ed. Dictionary of Architecture and Construction. New York, 1975.
- c. ----- . Historic Architecture Sourcebook. New York, 1977.
- d. Risch, Erna. Quartermaster Support of the Army: A History of the Corps. Washington, D.C. 1962.

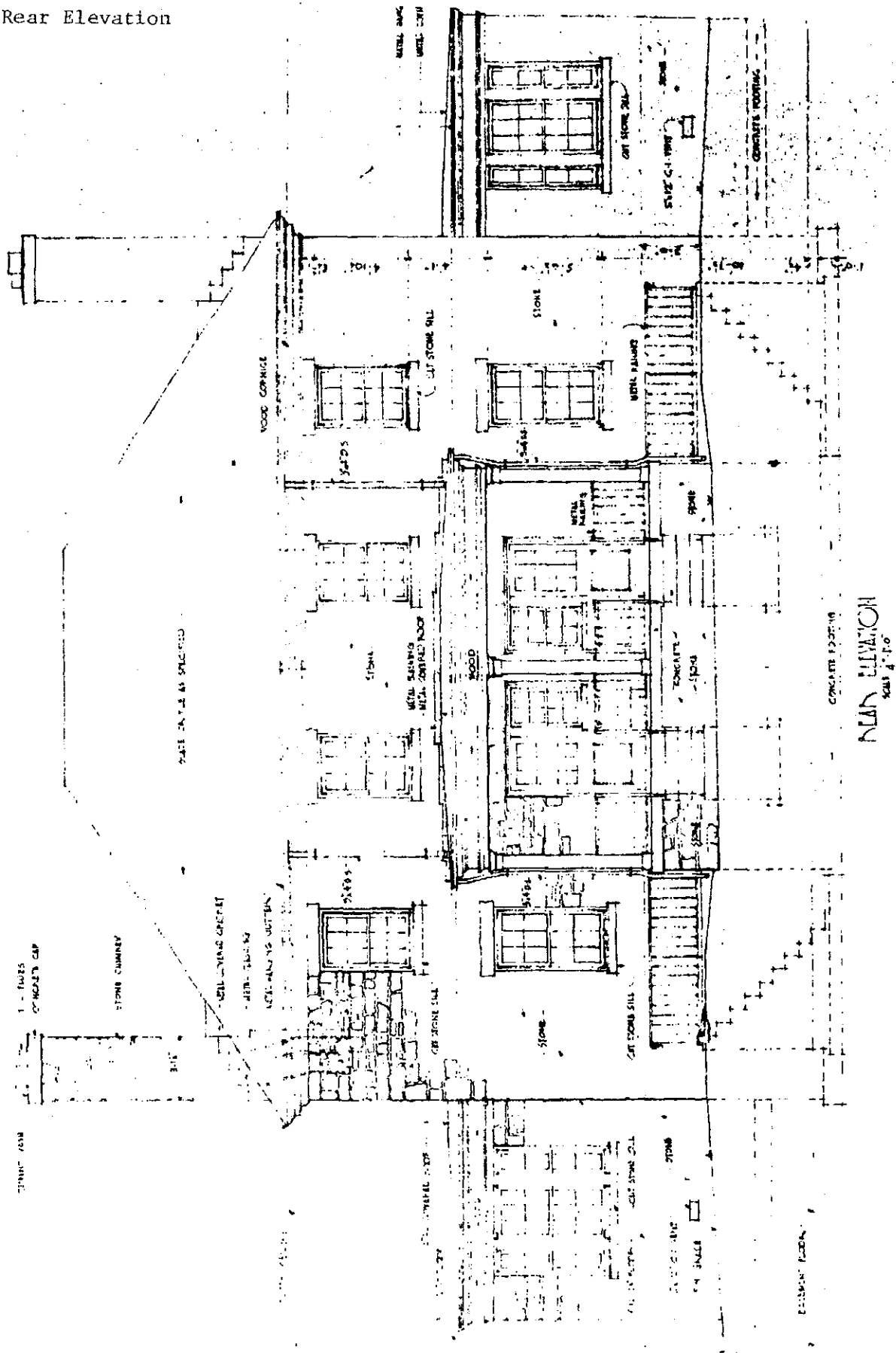
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Summer, 1985

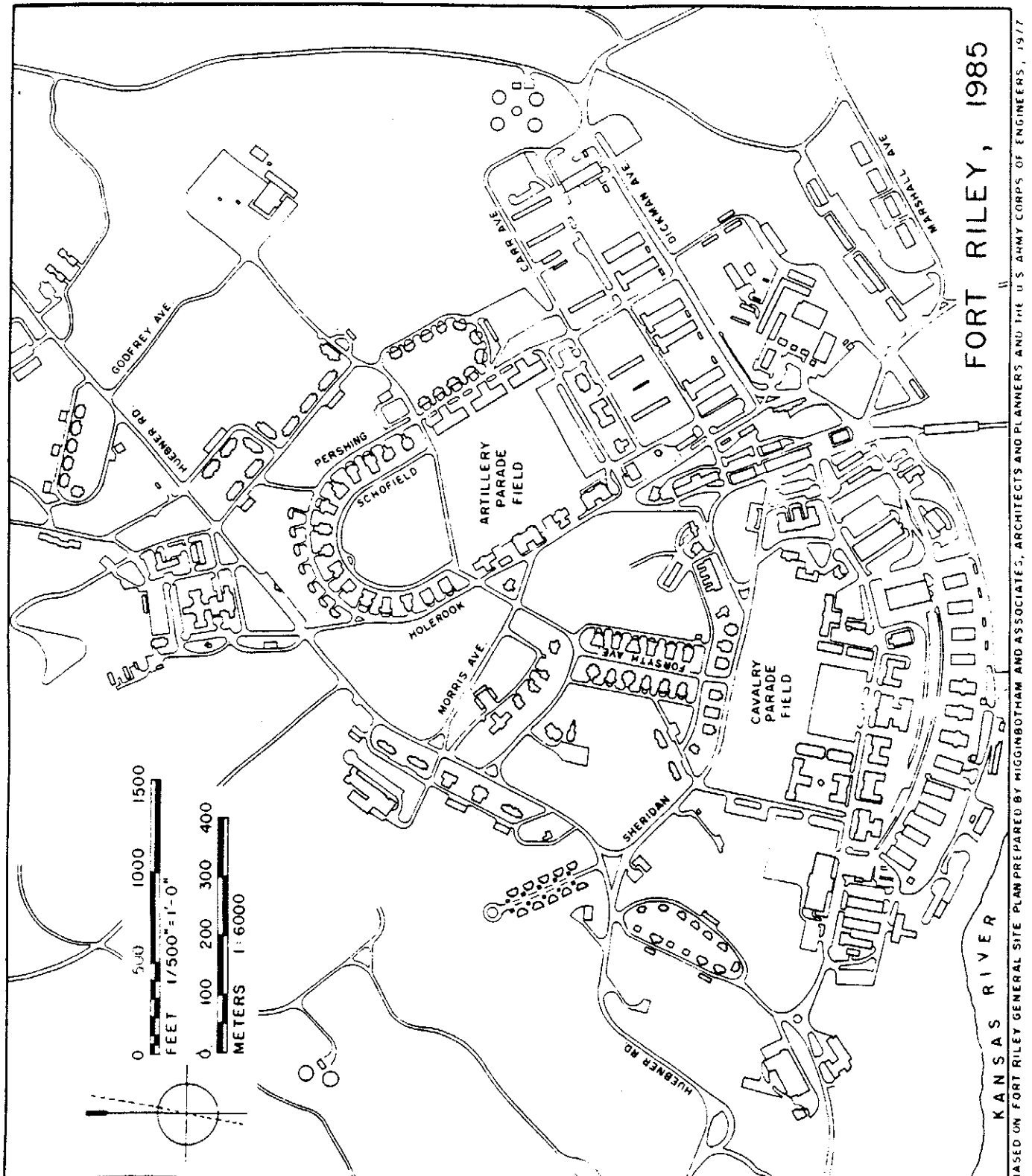
D. Supplemental Material  
1. Front Elevation



## 2. Rear Elevation



3. Fort Riley, 1985



PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service in agreement with the post commander of Fort Riley, Kansas, and the headquarters of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. The project was completed under the general supervision of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the HABS/HAER Division. Sally Kress Tompkins served as Program Coordinator and Robie S. Lange as Project Leader. The Field Supervisor was James A. Glass (historian, Cornell University). The project historians were Catherine Crawford (University of Maryland) and Joseph Rodriguez (University of California). Large format photography was conducted by Mike Whye. Documentation was prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Catherine Crawford.